

GENERAL MEDICAL 8.0

Occupational Health Services -- 8.2

Tetanus Vaccine for Dental Staff -- 8.2.e

Date Issued: November 24, 2003

Date Last Revised: March 23, 2011

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy R. Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN". The signature is written in a cursive style.

By: Cathy R. Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Health Services

POLICY

All dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants including part-time, contractual, and volunteers who have patient contact and are at risk of effective exposure, shall be offered the tetanus vaccine. "Dental Health Care Workers are at risk for exposure to and possible transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases; accordingly, vaccination against influenza, measles, mumps, rubella and tetanus may be appropriate for DHCWs."¹

APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants at Local Health Departments, Regional and Central Office personnel.

PURPOSE

To protect the health of the employees.

PROCEDURE

At the time of employment, or when the Tetanus booster needs to be updated, dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants shall receive the tetanus vaccine at no cost to the employee. If an employee refuses immunization, a refusal statement must be signed and placed in her/his personnel file.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Recommended infection-control practices for dentistry, 1993. MMWR 1993;42(No. RR-8): page 2

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

Office of the Medical Director, Bureau of Health Services, (615)741-7305